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ALBIZZIA JULIBRISSIN ROSEA

THE MOUNT PLEASANT PRESS, with its unique Breeze Hill Gardens laboratory, is ready and anxious to promote the planting and improvement of gardens through the use of its knowledge, pictures and designing ingenuity. We believe it is possible to have not only more gardens, but better and different gardens.

The pages in Breeze Hill News are intended to add to the selling opportunities of the seedsmen and the nurserymen. We cherish the ideal that, working with these tradesmen, it is attractively possible to build good-will gardens and greatly to extend the range of the year during which plant interest can be promoted.

We want to help, to your advantage and ours. Write us, visit us, use us!

J. HORACE MCFARLAND COMPANY



VERBENA
bipinnatifida
See page 6

ALBIZZIA JULIBRISSIN ROSEA

DOWN South they call this a Mimosa, but the common name for it in most localities is "Silk Tree."

The variety Rosea, the one we have at Breeze Hill, is supposed to be somewhat dwarfer and hardier than the type, which grows to over 30 feet tall in its home in Southern Asia. Our plant came to Breeze Hill in October, 1934, and after being moved several times has finally found a home in the 21st Street shrubbery border where it has prospered in ordinary soil. The interesting little tree is now 8 feet tall, with a goodly spread. The light green, bipinnate, fern-like foliage grows on 8-inch stems, bearing 15 or 16 leaves $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, each with about 25 pairs of tiny opposite leaflets. The size of the foliage varies on different trees, but I am describing the Breeze Hill tree. The leaves make one think of the Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pudica*).

The dainty flowers appear in June and resemble tufts of hair $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, the head made up of smaller tufts of some two dozen hairs, and there are about 25 of these small tufts in a bloom. The hairs are white on the lower half, pink on the upper or outer half, each tipped with gold. The flowers are blessed with a delicious fragrance. Strap-shaped pulpless pods, 5 to 6 inches long, follow the bloom.

This very different and attractive tree is good at all times, and well worth a place in even small gardens. It is dependably hardy at zero.

CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA (Summer Sweet; Sweet Pepperbush)

THIS native shrub is found along the coast from Maine to Florida. A neglected native, it is delightful in light shade.

Happy specimens in the wild sometimes reach a height of 10 feet, while nursery-propagated plants, when transplanted to gardens, often stop growing at 5 feet. The Breeze Hill specimen which came from the old Moon Nursery at Morrisville, N. J., over a quarter of a century ago, is now 8 feet tall in spite of occasional prunings and the fact that the soil is quite dry. All the White Alder family like both shade and some moisture in the soil; our plant has the shade but very little lasting moisture.

The fragrant flowers are produced in 4 to 6-inch fleecy spikes of clean white in July and often last well over into August. Its fragrance is spicy, or rather peppery, to be exact, and is distinct enough to well justify its common name. The foliage is rather narrow and of a nice shade of green.

The pink form, *Clethra alnifolia rosea*, has slightly larger bloom-spikes than the type, and the flowers are a beautiful shade of shell-pink. Otherwise it is exactly like the type, and it blooms at the same midsummer time.

Both these shrubs are more than good enough to displace some plants of our monotony of *Hydrangea* "Pee Gee" and the Van Houtte Spirea.

The Sweet Pepperbush is the best known of the White Alder family and is the only native member to have found a home in northern gardens. Two other natives, *C. acuminata*, found in the mountains from Virginia to Georgia, and *C. tomentosa*, which keeps to the coast from North Carolina to Florida, are both interesting plants but lack the appeal of *C. alnifolia*.



CLETHR^A ALNIFOLIA

VERBENA BIPINNATIFIDA

THIS is just another one of those extra-good native plants too rarely seen in gardens. It has so many fine qualities that every acute gardener might well give it a trial. It needs an easy "common" name—how about Arizona Verbena?

The plant is a "door-mat" perennial, developing into a close mat of pleasing, finely cut, even deep green foliage. These pleasant mats grow $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet across, covering themselves with sheets of bloom from June until frost. The flowers are in flat heads or clusters at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, the individual florets being $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter and the clusters held 6 or 8 inches above the ground. The color is deep lavender, a live shade that is really nice on a plant which stays so close to the ground.

Rex D. Pearce, who introduced this grand plant a year or two ago, rides the clouds in describing the flowers. His description is so expressive that it is here repeated.

"A block of *Verbena bipinnatifida* is in fullest spread of flowering just outside the office window. Looking down on it (the office is one story up), the effulgent, jewel-like quality of its coloring is most noticeable. It throws the sun right back again, and that, after all, is not what we expect a blue flower to do. Technically it is, perhaps, lavender, but a blue-reflecting lavender that approaches the primary color."

This *Verbena* is a hardy perennial, said to thrive in a range of climate from the long and severe winters of South Dakota to the balmy weather of the Rio Grande.

Blooming the first year from seed, it can be treated as an annual if desired, in which case it will bloom sometime ahead of the popular annual Verbenas.

Another native worthy of garden trial is *V. canadensis* whose spiky heads of rose, white or purple are held some 18 inches high. Not dependably hardy north, but it is another fast-working perennial which blooms early enough to be treated as an annual.

SPHAERALCEA REMOTA

SOME three years ago A. M. Augustine sent us a plant of this which he called *Phymosa remota*, passing along to us the information that it has been termed "the rarest of all American plants."

Its claim to fame lies in the supposition that it is a relic of pre-glacial days, and nearly the only thing now living to survive the big freeze-up. As we didn't want the poor thing to be too lonely we have recently added a rare fastigiate form of the familiar *Ginkgo* to Breeze Hill, thinking it possible that the *Ginkgo* flourished over in China at about the same time this *Sphaeralcea* was beautifying the island in the Kankakee River where Dr. E. J. Hill discovered it in 1878.

This strange plant grows from 2 to 6 feet tall and is quite closely covered, right up to the top, with maple-like foliage, providing for its common name of Maple-leaved Globe-Mallow.

The flowers, which are more or less hidden by the foliage, are almost stemless, 5-petaled mauve saucers $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across. There is a silvery sheen in the bottom of the saucer, and I noted a mild but peculiar scent.

The State of Illinois has recently taken over as a park the island where this ancient Mallow was found, and the few remaining plants are being protected.

Without enthusiasm concerning the appearance of either plant or the flower of *Sphaeralcea remota*, we yet believe there is room in every garden for some curiosities, or plants kept for sentimental or historical reasons. On this basis there should be a demand for this plant, which will be introduced next spring by Augustine Nurseries, Normal, Illinois.

The Globe-Mallows are all American plants, the species being scattered over our own West, Mexico, Central and South America. Seeds of several of them are now catalogued by rare-seed specialists.



MORNING-GLORY
Pearly Gates



MARIGOLD
Spry



PHLOX
Rosy Morn



ASTER, Jean Boyd



PETUNIA
Radiance



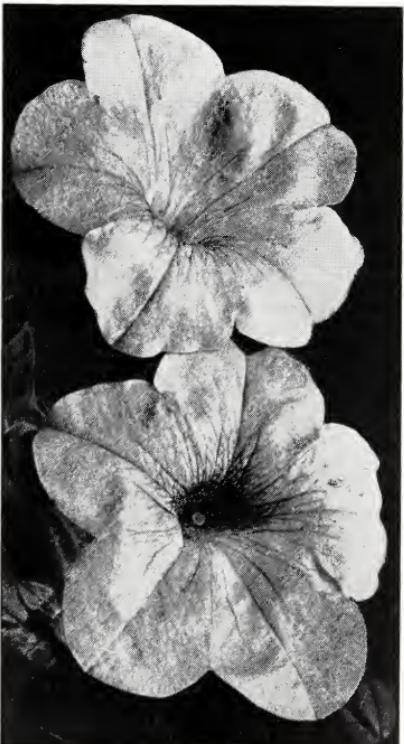
ZINNIA, Black Ruby



SCABIOSA, Peace



MARIGOLD, Scarlet Glow



PETUNIA, First Lady

THE ALL-AMERICA SEED TRIALS

TWELVE awards were announced this fall at the close of the 1940 season of the All-America Flower-seed Trials. Eleven of them were taken from this year's entries and one had been held over from last year because of an insufficiency of seed to supply the anticipated 1940 demand.

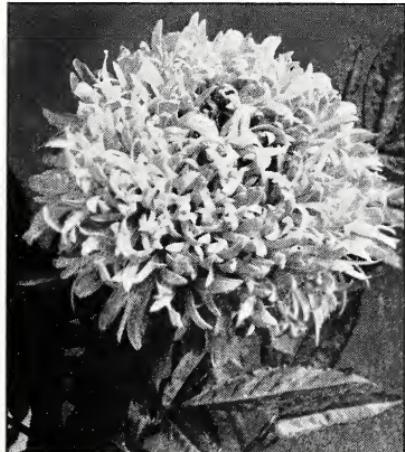
One might think that the modern seed catalogue already listed enough Petunias and Marigolds, but the judges evidently thought otherwise as four of the awards went to Petunias and three to Marigolds, while Aster, *Ipomoea*, *Phlox*, *Scabiosa* and *Zinnia* had to be satisfied with one each.

As Petunias are in the lead, it seems in order to start with them, leading off with Blue Brocade, which appealed to this reporter as being the best thing in the 1940 trials. It has been awarded a Silver Medal earned by the highest score of the 70 flower novelties judged this year. The plants are good, not too rampant, with heavy, broad, heart-shaped foliage, and produce liberal quantities of $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, double, frilly flowers of deep violet. This rich color lasts for some time, and then ages a delightful shade of pale violet. The flowers are beautiful at all stages, and the mature light-colored flowers are just as lovely as the richly colored newly opened blooms. Its fragrance is not too strong, making this Japanese Petunia an excellent flower for cutting, and the plants bloomed well into September. The variety is listed as belonging to the Victorious type, whatever that means. Seedsmen are dividing annuals into so many types that I wonder if many of them know what it is all about! Certainly it is bewildering to the poor gardener.

Also with a Silver Medal to its credit is Waller-Franklin's Petunia Radiance. This is a medium-sized ($1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across), single flower of lasting cerise, the color so good that even the greenish yellow throat, lined with brown, does not interfere. The fragrance is mild for a Petunia. It is classified as a Petunia hybrid form, and the plants made 15 to 18-inch stems with narrow light green foliage. Bloom began early in June, and the plants still carried considerable bloom when this was written (October 1). Radiance seems



PETUNIA, Violet Gem



MARIGOLD, Goldsmith



PETUNIA, Blue Brocade

important because of its long period of profuse bloom, like the rose of that name, and the lasting quality of its color.

The third Silver Medal went to a 1939 trial which had been held over a year because of insufficient seed earlier. This is a *Nana compacta* Petunia, comes from Japan, and has been named First Lady. According to last year's notes the plants were about a foot square and bore 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch single flowers of salmon-pink, larger and lighter than

Salmon Supreme and without the pointed lobes of that variety. It faded very light, but was pleasing even then.

The fourth Petunia to get an award was not so successful, having to be satisfied with an Honorable Mention. This is a miniature variety from Waller-Franklin and has been aptly named Violet Gem. Its compact plants did not get much over 6 by 6 inches and made a pleasing display from mid-July into early September. The single flowers were $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, quite deeply lobed, with ends broadly pointed. In color it was deep violet with brown lines in the shallow throat, and they were mildly scented. Growing 100 per cent true added to the desirability of this variety.

While discussing Petunias, note another in the trials which has been named, and may appear in catalogues, in spite of the fact that judges did not see fit to vote for it. This was Silver Lilac, another Japanese origination, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, single, frilled flower of pale lilac, heavily veined darker and having a white throat, lined with brown. The plants made 12 to 18-inch stems and were in good bloom by early July. There was a good crop of flowers displayed when checked October 1. It carries a heavy Petunia scent.

Of the 11 Marigolds in the Trials, 3 won awards, Burpee receiving a Silver Medal for their Extra Dwarf French Variety, Spry. This is along the lines of Harmony and has one or two rows of brown petals and a center tuft of orange. The plants began blooming when 8 inches tall and on October 1 were just about the same size, being then covered with bloom, with buds enough left to last until frost. Spry makes a pleasing, colorful bed, and, being scentless, serves as a nice cut-flower in spite of the short stems.

Awarded a Bronze Medal, Goldsmith, a Giant Marigold from Waller-Franklin, came into bloom during the last week in August, when 4 feet tall, at which height it remained. The plants have normal green foliage with typical Marigold odor. They branch freely, producing a heavy crop of bloom. The flowers, up to 4 inches in diameter, are golden orange in color, and, like Dixie Sunshine, are made up of closely packed small, narrow petals surrounded by a collarette of



LYCORIS
SQUAMIGERA
(*Amaryllis Hallii*)

THIS is one of those tantalizing plants that require good memory or particularly careful marking to keep the gardener from destroying the bulbs.

The foliage appears in the spring, then ripens and disappears about the last of June, leaving a bare spot in the garden. Then in late July a 2 to 3-foot scape shoots up and produces an umbel of 6 or more lily-like, flaring flowers of pale lavender-pink. These are 4 inches long from base of tube to edge of petals, and the opening about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across. Rose-colored pistils and rose filaments, tipped with yellow anthers, add to the dainty picture, and one notices a peculiar strong fragrance.

The flowers last in good condition for several days. This native of Japan has proven hardy and thrives at Breeze Hill, planted 5 inches deep in ordinary soil.

broad petals of the same golden orange color. The flowers have a mild, pleasing scent. Long stems, fine color, and this pleasing scent put this in the class of desirable early fall cut-flowers.

The third Marigold recognized by the judges was Scarlet Glow, a double Dwarf French from Burpee. This began to bloom in early July when 6 inches tall. It is now (October 1) only 10 inches tall and is well covered with bloom. Its flowers are $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches across and of quite variable coloring. The first blooms were either plain brick color or reddish brick, with some striped flowers. October flowers are scarlet-orange-brown with a little gold appearing on most petal edges, and all with a golden reverse. About 80 per cent of the blooms are this color, while the remainder are golden yellow marked with the same brownish color. There is a pleasing spicy fragrance.

Scoring highest among the Bronze Medal winners was Phlox, Rosy Morn, from Waller-Franklin. It is a selection from their Gigantea Art Shades Phlox and is described by the introducers as having large-sized florets of a refreshing, gay and bright combination of rose-pink with a white eye. From two plantings at Breeze Hill last spring we did not get a plant.

Misfortune slapped down our test of the next Bronze Medal winner, the China Aster, Jean Boyd. Our plants grew 6 inches tall before commencing to wilt, and were all dead by July 30. This Aster was originated by C. P. Sheridan, Napa, California, and is being introduced by Waller-Franklin. They describe it as having long-stemmed double flowers of warm cerise-red and being a good cut-flower.

The third Bronze Medal went to Burpee for Lilliput Zinnia, Black Ruby. We think this little Zinnia so good that it deserved a higher rating. In bloom July 1, it was still carrying on when noted October 1 and was then 18 inches tall. Plants carried a continuous display of $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pom-poms of dark velvety maroon and the flowers lasted in good condition a long time. The blooms came 95 per cent true.

Another dud for us was Ferry-Morse's *Ipomoea*, Pearly Gates, which gathered an Honorable Mention. From plantings under glass on March 25 and April 12 we finally had four plants to set out in May, but all died. It is reported as being a white sport of Heavenly Blue, early, large flowered, vigorous, and a good bloomer.

The last Honorable Mentioner, the *Scabiosa* Peace, is one of the dwarf type (18 to 24 inches tall), with a generous supply of basal stems from mid-July right up into October. The flowers are of the high bee-hive form, and are a good clean white.

A few which looked promising to this judge but apparently not important to others were Burpee's Larkspur, Blue Velvet, which grew 3 feet tall and carried fine spikes of double flowers of deep violet-blue. They did not shatter and lasted well; this is a fine Larkspur. A very much worth-while Marigold is Bodger's Pot o'Gold, whose low, bushy plants grew 18 inches tall and for two months, during July and August, covered themselves with Guinea-Gold-type flowers of deep orange. They came 96 per cent true. The foliage carried typical Marigold odor. Its value lies in its earliness and profusion of bloom. A real novelty was Burpee's Marigold, General Tom Thumb, whose dwarf, squat plants, only 6 inches tall, had a spread as great and topped themselves with deep orange flowers of Crown of Gold type. Bloom lasted from August 1 to mid-September, with a few flowers lasting into October. It will be useful as a novelty edging or pot-plant.

Wood Charm, a splendid little *Viola* from Sluis Bros., Holland, furnished a fine mass of bloom from mid-June on, blooming right through summer and still at it in late September. The color is deep violet with a pale zone around the golden eye. Few annuals work as steadily as this *Viola*.

There was a promising scarlet-orange, double Shirley Poppy from this same Holland firm, but there probably is no use of thinking much about flower seed from Holland for the present.



AZALEA MUCRONULATUM

Important because the naked branches break into bloom just in time to keep the Forsythia company, every garden needs a plant of this lovely Azalea.

The crinkly, crepe-like flowers range in color from pale rose to rosy purple, and are really good to look at in late March, in this section.